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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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Donald McLeish

LEKSAND LASSES LEARN SOON THAT NEW DRESSES FOLLOW OLD FASHIONS

The town of Leksand in central Sweden, beside Lake Siljan, is one of the places where Swedes have proudly preserved the art of making their own costumes after traditional patterns, using materials homegrown, homespun, and homewoven. Girls can shop for a new dress in their own backyard, where they can shear the sheep, card the wool, spin and reel the yarn, and weave the cloth. These two girls are spending some after-school hours acquiring skill with a spindle (right) and reel (Bulletin No. 3).

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HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic School Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Originally entered as second-class matter January 27, 1922; re-entered as of April 27, 1943, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1943, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

Newer Battlefields in the Solomon Islands

Mountainous Bougainville, a Connecticut-Sized Jungle

THE landing of U. S. Marines on Bougainville made a battlefield of the largest island in the 700-mile-long chain of the Solomons. The most northern sizable member of the Solomons, Bougainville tightens the Allies' grip on this island chain and also puts their forces less than an hour's bomber flight from the important Japanese base at Rabaul on New Britain, 260 miles northwest.

Mangrove-bordered Empress Augusta Bay, where the Marines landed, is 50 miles northwest of Buin, Japanese base on Bougainville. Near the bay rises Mt. Bagana, 6,500-foot active volcano which showered the island with ashes six years ago. Beyond, the Crown Prince mountains rise well above 7,000 feet. The Emperor range, in the northwest, reaches heights above 10,000 feet.

While the mountains reach cold altitudes, the lowlands of Bougainville are covered with dense jungles that steam in constant humidity and heat. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes are prevalent. The mountainous interior is inhabited by primitive people of the Papuan family, related to New Guinea tribes (illustration, next page). These isolated inland natives have progressed little beyond the Stone Age, and only within the past two decades have given up head-hunting.

Bougainville is about 110 miles long, with an area roughly three-quarters as big as Connecticut's. It is estimated that 50,000 natives live there.

The island is named for the French explorer who rediscovered the Solomons in 1768. They had been "misplaced" since Mendaña found them in 1567.

Barrier Reef Fortifies Choiseul

CHOISEUL, brought into the war picture by an unusual attack of seagoing U. S. paratroopers, is a steppingstone to Bougainville. The latter lies directly northwest across Bougainville Strait.

About 80 miles long and 20 miles wide, Choiseul is one of the larger islands of the Solomons. It lies close to the heart of the archipelago, 200 miles northwest of Guadalcanal.

Choiseul previously has been little mentioned in accounts of the war because it is Nature's fortress rather than man's. Low forested mountains cover the island and leave little flat land except around the coast.

Even the ebony-black Melanesians find the interior difficult to penetrate. A few villages hide in the forest along the coast. On the southwest coast lies Bambatana, the chief town, a mission station among a cluster of native villages at a river mouth. Coconut plantations are profitable in peacetime.

Three-fourths of Choiseul's 180-mile perimeter lies behind a forbidding barrier reef that allows few good anchorages close to shore. Breaks in the reef at each end make the island approachable.

Treasury Islands Reinforce Bougainville's Flank

THE small Treasury Island group, recently taken by United Nations forces, lies due south of Bougainville, guarding its southwestern approaches. With the exception of Bougainville and its island fringe, they are the westernmost of the Solomons. They are only 300 miles from the Japanese base at Rabaul.

The group consists of tiny Mono and tinier Stirling. The protected expanse

SWEDEN OF THE "MIDDLE WAY" PROVIDES TWO ROUTES FOR GETTING OUT OF A TRAFFIC JAM

Moderate Sweden has been called the country of the middle way because it has in recent years made progress by a process of gradual change, avoiding both conservative and radical extremes. Capital and powerhouse of the country is Stockholm, city of more than a half-million inhabitants. The problem of heavy traffic beside the Slussen—a waterway between the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren—was solved by a modern cloverleaf system of over- and underpasses, by which pedestrians, buses, and autos could cross arterial streets in safety. War shortages, however, have thinned out gasoline-driven traffic considerably in Sweden (Bulletin No. 3).

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Thanksgiving Menu Gets Sweet Potatoes from Indians

POTATOES pair with gravy on the menu of Thanksgiving dinner as surely as cranberry sauce goes with the turkey. Since the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving in 1621, history has often repeated its thanks to the Indians for Thanksgiving turkey and cranberries, along with the corn, pumpkins, squash, and succotash that New England Indians taught Massachusetts Bay colonists to raise and relish.

But where did potatoes come from, both white and sweet, to keep their Thanksgiving rendezvous with turkey gravy? From the Indians, too. But these foods are contributed by Indians from Central and South America who are not associated with Thanksgiving because of its northern origin.

One of Forty-Five Foods of Indian Origin

It is possible that sweet potatoes were among the strange New World crops planted and harvested by southern settlers in Virginia as early as 1610. Their cultivation is a matter of record before 1650. Thomas Jefferson, who was a Virginia farmer both before and after being politician and president, was interested in them. But New England may not have tasted sweet potatoes until the decade before the American Revolution; there is a record of their use in 1764.

A list of the foods that American colonists inherited from Indian farmers might comprise as many as 45, including tapioca, chocolate, vanilla, and pineapple. But none except corn would have greater importance than white potatoes and sweet potatoes.

Specimens of both kinds have been found in graves of the Incas in Peru. The story of the transplanting of the white potato to Europe, where it was adopted by Ireland and dubbed the Irish potato, is familiar. But the wanderings of the sweet potato are less well known.

Although the exact birthplace is not definitely identified, it was probably in the sun-warmed soil of tropical America that Indian cultivators coaxed the flourishing vines (illustration, next page) to produce their golden root harvest. Columbus described this vegetable discovery, which he encountered on his fourth voyage to the Americas, as "niames (yams) resembling carrots, with a savor of chestnuts." Other early navigators in the Caribbean called the sweet potato "the most delicate roote that may be eaten."

Sweet and Irish Potatoes No Kin

Spain of course received Europe's first samples of this vegetable gold from the New World. By 1576 the sweet potato was being grown as a novelty in Belgium. It may be the sweet potato that inspired Shakespeare to insert the exotic vegetable name in *Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Probably trade with the West Indies brought sweet potatoes to Virginia and Maryland farms. The vegetable was a favorite food in Maryland, along with venison and oyster stew and turtle soup, by 1684.

Negroes, coming from Africa to plantations in the southern United States, called the golden sweet potato they found growing there a yam, or nyam, after the true yam they had eaten in Africa. This term, really a misnomer, often is still applied to the more deeply colored, moist, and sugary variety of the vegetable, to distinguish it from the mealy, lemon-colored type known simply as sweet potato.

In spite of the similarity of their popular names, the sweet potato and the

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of water between them is known as Blanche Harbor.

Mono, a near circle of six-mile diameter, is densely wooded and rises to 1,165 feet. High cliffs line part of the coast The principal village is Falamai, behind Blanche Harbor. Whalers and "blackbirders" (slave-snatchers) who once used the harbor reported the natives wily and treacherous in self-defense. Traders and missionaries who treated them well found them friendly and generous.

Stirling Island is a narrow three-mile strip of raised coral with a small fresh-water lake at its east end. Water is plentiful on both islands.

The coral structure of the islands has been studied because it does not conform to Charles Darwin's theory that coral builds on land that is subsiding.

NOTE: The Solomon Islands are shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C.

For further information, see "A Woman's Experiences among Stone Age Solomon Islanders," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1942; "Treasure Islands of Australasia," June, 1942*; and "North About," February, 1937*. *(Issues marked by an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers at 10¢ each in groups of ten.)*

Bulletin No. 1, November 22, 1943.

Douglas L. Oliver

LIKE BATTLESHIPS BOUGAINVILLE BABES ARE LAUNCHED WITH CHRISTENINGS

Many parents and two babies are needed to christen one child in the interior of Bougainville, largest island of the Solomons. In addition to his mother and father, all the other children of his grandparents are considered the parents of an infant Bougainvillian. All his aunts and uncles share in looking after him. They cluster around for his christening, pouring a milky liquid of sacred significance over him from a gourd container, while one aunt mops him off. Meanwhile another of the co-parents holds a young possum (right) as an imitation infant to confuse any evil spirits trying to harm the real baby. The serious young mother, holding her offspring, wears her Sunday-best strings of bead money and a spindle of white wood or bone through her nose. Baby wears white bead bracelets.

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War-Ringed Sweden, Northern Europe's Last Peace Island

FOR more than four years Sweden has succeeded in remaining an island of neutrality surrounded by a world at war. The autumn of 1943 has brought additional threats to that neutrality.

Once Sweden granted the Nazis permission to transport furloughed troops across the country to and from northern Norway. Later that permission was withdrawn. Now the Germans have denied Swedish ships and planes safe passage across Nazi-controlled territory.

Next door to Norway on the west, cheek by jowl with Finland on the northeast, Sweden fronts the Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic Sea on the east, almost touches noses with Denmark across the Skagerrak and Kattegat channels.

An Ice-Sculptured Land, One-Fifth Arctic

Occupying the larger part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, Sweden is about two-thirds as big as Texas, with an area of 173,347 square miles. Almost one-fifth of this area is north of the Arctic Circle.

The southern part of Sweden has a climate tempered by warm Atlantic currents that twist into the Skagerrak. The polar ice cap slipped off the southern tip of the peninsula thousands of years ago, left lakes in hundreds of its footprints, seamed the land with rivers.

In the north, mountains rise ruggedly. Winter blankets the land with cold and darkness. Summer comes with a rush. Biggest "sight" is summer's midnight sun viewed from one of the northern peaks.

The northern sun is a worker as well as a wonder. It thaws the northern snows, melts glacial ice, creates streams that provide the "white coal" for hydroelectric power developments. Before the war about two-thirds of the country's 10,000 miles of railway had been electrified. Electricity also takes the drudgery out of farm and household chores, lugs ore from mines of iron-packed hills in the north.

Has Foundation of Forests and Minerals

Forests on three-fourths of the land—1,000 acres per 100 inhabitants—provide products that bring in about half the country's revenue from exports. Logs by the million sweep down the rivers to sawmills and wood-working plants in the south. Regrowth of spruce, fir, and pine is guarded by the government.

Since the war, the loss of foreign markets for wood has been met in part by new domestic uses. Wood is being used for fuel by homes, industries, and railroads. Wood pulp has been converted to cattle fodder. Charcoal for fuel is substituting for blockaded gasoline.

Mining is Sweden's chief industry. Iron ore is the main "pay dirt." Exports in 1939 topped 13,500,000 tons. Sweden mines also silver, lead, copper, zinc, and manganese ores. Coal veins in the south are profitably worked. Quarrying is a sizable industry.

Sweden's 19,000 factories are well distributed. Peacetime payrolls included about 416,000 workers. Eskilstuna steel, Jönköping matches, Orrefors and Kosta crystal glass are known in world markets. Other specialties are cream separators, ball bearings, telephone equipment, motors, and porcelain.

Half of Sweden's population of 6,300,000 are on farms, most of them less

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Irish potato are no kin. The "sweet" (botanical name, *Ipomea batatas*) is an edible member of the morning-glory family. The white potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) is a plant cousin of the tomato and eggplant, with a kinship also to belladonna.

The white potato is a tuber which grows on its plant as an adaptation of the stem; roots grow from it, and like a stem it has buds which make the potato's eyes. The sweet potato is an adaptation of its plant's root. It has no bud-eyes because only stems have buds.

It was the "sweet" that originally bore the potato name, and gave the word to the English language. It was known to early Europeans as the "batatas." At that time the white potato was called the "papas."

By a new process which includes dehydration, the sweet potato of today can be stripped of its moisture, but with its sugar, minerals, and vitamins left intact. Then it is ready to play a new role in the nation's diet. Long a standby in the diets of the South—a frequenter of dinner tables, but seldom seen on breakfast menus—the humble "sweet" may now come to breakfast tables as a crisp and highly nutritious "cereal" carrying its own natural sugar.

Breakfast food is only one of many contributions made by the versatile sweet potato. Its products include candy bars or "caramel chews," ice cream powders, flour for pies, and tasty sandwich spreads.

Bulletin No. 2, November 22, 1943.

Richard H. Stewart

UNDERGROUND GOLD CAN COME FROM SWEET POTATO ACRES AS WELL AS MINES

Around the world the golden sweet potatoes, as well as the yams, are valued highly as a food crop, although they are not so important commercially as the white or Irish potato. Native women in Tanganyika, British Guiana, northeast India, and Pacific islands cultivate these root crops to feed their families. The Maoris of New Zealand once revered Pani whom they considered the god of the sweet potatoes. In the southern United States also, since the middle of the 17th century, the sweet potato has been a crop of considerable importance. Even in New Mexico, where irrigation must supply the little moisture the plant demands, this crop covers acres reaching to the horizon. In the field photographed, near Portales, the sweet potato vines, each plant stretching along the ground for several feet, have almost completely blanketed the earth and obliterated the pattern of rows.

NOTE

The Society wishes to thank the numbers of teachers who, when renewing their subscriptions this fall, have written letters commending the usefulness of the Geographic School Bulletins. It is regrettable that the scarcity of clerical assistance precludes an individual response to every letter. Will each teacher please accept this note of gratitude as an answer? You may be sure that comments are perennially appreciated.

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Paratroops: Sky Soldiers Invented in the U.S.A.

IN Italy at Avellino, in the Pacific at Choiseul, in Sicily, in North Africa—in major campaigns everywhere the U. S. Army's parachute troopers have spearheaded the attack. They have been demonstrating a kind of modern warfare in which the United States has pioneered.

Although the Axis first used paratroops in combat, these soldiers from the sky are as American in origin as ice cream cones and apple pie.

Benjamin Franklin foresaw them, General William (Billy) Mitchell advocated them, and the U. S. Army was experimenting with them fifteen years ago.

Franklin Read the Future and Hoped for Peace

Franklin, in 1783, was serving as ambassador to France from the young, vulnerable United States. Like the wiliest modern military attaché, he looked for new methods of warfare that might affect the safety of his country. He witnessed in Paris on November 21, 1783, the balloon demonstration that went down in history as mankind's first authenticated ascent into the air. Two months later he wrote that a country might in the future have to defend itself from "Ten Thousand Men Descending from the Clouds."

He thought of these sky soldiers as dropping to earth in 5,000 two-man balloons, but subsequent experiments proved the parachute more suitable for such a maneuver. Franklin expressed the hope that the use of airborne soldiers would bring all war to an end. "Convincing Sovereigns of the Folly of Wars may perhaps be one Effect of it, since it will be impracticable for the most potent of them to guard his Dominions."

It was an American who introduced the old-fashioned parachute, known since the 1780's, to the newfangled airplane, when in 1912 a U. S. Army captain made the world's first parachute jump from an airplane. Captain Bert Berry inaugurated the plane-and-parachute partnership in March, 1912, bailing out at St. Louis, Missouri, from a Benoit-Pusher plane piloted by Tony Jannus.

It was the late General Mitchell who proposed turning the passive parachute of emergency self-preservation into a weapon of offense. In World War I he advocated dispatching 20,000 American soldiers on an invasion behind German lines by parachute. Nothing came of his suggestion at that time.

U. S. Showed U. S. S. R. How to 'Chute

In the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1921, in his article "America in the Air," General Mitchell listed sky-diving soldiers among the spectacular developments to be expected from the Air Age. Since the small airplane of that time was unable to carry enough men to satisfy his imagination, he envisioned the future paratrooper as traveling almost soundlessly to his objective in a giant dirigible: "A large airship can carry 200 fully equipped infantrymen and drop them off in parachutes if necessary." True to his dream, today's paratroopers are part of the infantry, although many people associate these highflying foot soldiers with the Air Forces (illustration, next page).

Later, under Mitchell's supervision at Kelly Field, Texas, parachute pioneers practiced attack from the air.

In April, 1928, U. S. soldiers at Chanute Field, Illinois, were experimenting with mass jumps, parachuting to earth by the planeload, ten at a time.

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than 50 acres. Staple crops are wheat, rye, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, and hay. Milk, for millions of tons of butter and cheese, is Sweden's meadow gold.

Sweden worked off its zest for empire building in its youth, now has no colonies. Population is Nordic in type. Extremes of wealth or poverty are rare.

Swedes can look back to a civilization that flourished centuries ago. Their land is rich in castles, rune stones, Viking mounds, and Bronze Age graves. The chief universities date from 1477 (Uppsala) and 1668 (Lund). Old customs, old costumes persist (illustration, cover), but Sweden has definitely broken with the past. Free schooling has been compulsory since 1842. Women have come to a new status, with rights guaranteed. In 1914 Sweden pioneered in control of liquor sales through ration books.

The pulse of modern Sweden beats fastest in Stockholm (590,000), capital and largest city (illustration, inside cover). Linked with it by the famous Göta Canal is Göteborg (281,000), the country's chief port and second city. Third largest is Malmö (135,000). The latest census shows forty-nine cities of more than 10,000 people.

Prewar life in Sweden was good, attracted many visitors, stirred them to praise and participation. Now Sweden's destiny is clouded. The people till their soil, hew their timber, dig their ores—and watch and wait.

NOTE: Sweden is shown on the Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

See also the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Rural Sweden through American Eyes," June, 1940*; "Life's Flavor on a Swedish Farm," September, 1939*; "Sweden, Land of White Birch and White Coal," and "The Granite City of the North," October, 1928*.

For additional material, see these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Sweden Counts Resources," May 13, 1940; and "Skagerrak and Kattegat: Embattled Channel Waters of Scandinavia," April 29, 1940.

Bulletin No. 3, November 22, 1943.

G. Heurlin

SWEDEN'S DAILY BREAD IS UNFOLDED, NOT SLICED, WHEN IT IS TUNNBROD

Though southern Sweden enjoys crisp *knäckerbröd* (rye bread), the northern part of the country specializes in tunnbröd (thin bread). The housewife makes it with barley meal, wheat flour, and water, and adds cream which keeps the bread from hardening. With corrugated rolling pin she rolls out the dough in large sheets of cardboard thickness. The sheets can be folded and stacked like linen (center foreground).

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

CRIMEA: PLAYGROUND AND BATTLEGROUND

RUSSIAN troops in their westward advance have cut off a "pocketful" of German invaders in the Crimea—a peninsula famous as playground and battle arena.

About the size of Vermont (9,700 square miles), the Crimean Peninsula barely escapes being an island. It dangles from mainland U.S.S.R. into the Black Sea, a sort of watch fob, connected to the Ukraine by the narrow Perekop Isthmus. Over the 20-mile length of this isthmus a railroad runs southeast to Kerch on the Kerch Peninsula, which extends eastward toward the Caucasus.

Thirty miles east of the Perekop Isthmus is a second, but man-made, link between the Crimea and the Ukraine. This is the railroad that threads its way across peninsula, island, and causeway over the marshy Sivash arm of the Azov Sea. The railroad reaches to Sevastopol on the Crimea's southwest coast.

The Siyash, or Putrid Sea, is a stagnant, salty lagoon which normally supplies the U.S.S.R. with valuable mineral salts. Its fantastically irregular shoreline rims an area of about 1,000 square miles. It is separated from the Sea of Azov on the east by a 60-mile-long sand-bar, the Tongue of Arabat (Arabatskaya Strelka).

The northern Crimea is a land of plains. Its climate—cold in winter, dry and hot in summer—resembles that of the Russian steppes of which it is a continuation. Edging the southeastern coast are the Yaila-dagh, or Alpine Meadow Mountains, with peaks reaching 4,500 feet. The strip between the mountains and the sea, screened by its towering windbreak, is an Eden with a southern exposure. Figs, olives, pomegranates, cherries, and pears were grown for mainland markets.

This Riviera of Russia lured princes and grand dukes when Tsarhood was in flower. Under the Soviet regime palaces left over from Tsarist luxury became convalescent centers and rest homes for workers.

Half the Crimea's 750,000 prewar inhabitants were farmers. They grew wheat, sorghum, cotton, and tobacco, and raised cattle and poultry. Important natural resources of the Crimea included iron, phosphorus, manganese, salt, and gypsum. Oil refineries, brick yards, tanneries, and fisheries were operated.

The central position on the Black Sea which assured the Crimea's commercial importance also made it a frequent battleground. It was fought over by the Scythians, Greeks, Huns, Goths, Turks, and the Mongol Tatars (Tartars) of Genghis Khan whose successor khans gave it the name Crim, meaning Little Tartary. In 1783 it became part of the Russian Empire, to be defended against England, France, and Turkey in the Crimean War 75 years later. In the present war Sevastopol, base for the U.S.S.R.'s Black Sea Fleet, withstood Nazi attack for 245 days—back-to-the-wall resistance that helped keep Germans from Caucasus oil.

NOTE: The Crimean Peninsula is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean.

ITALY'S CUPBOARD IS NEARLY BARE

ALLIED forces in Italy are facing the problem of supplementing the food of the Italian people. Italy, never raising as much food as it needs, previously looked to Germany for some of its food supplies. War's requirements for manpower and food, as well as war's destruction, have cut so deeply into Italy's provisions that many people, particularly in the cities, are underfed.

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An Army sergeant patented the special-delivery parachute for dropping supplies along with the airborne troops. His "equipment carrier" was demonstrated in 1929 at Brooks Field, Texas, when a machine gun parachuted to earth simultaneously with its crew of three. All went into action 20 seconds after landing.

The paratroop idea traveled a devious route to the Nazi mind, which first put it to lethal use. The Germans apparently copied it from the Russians, who had borrowed it from the United States.

The Russians took up parachuting as a sport when an army officer suggested it as a means of attracting Soviet youth to flying. He got his idea from watching an American country fair crowd enthralled by the jumps of a parachute stunter.

In 1935 the Russian Army in its war games demonstrated before foreign attachés a mock capture of an airport by 3,500 parachutists, who received their equipment also from the skies, including light tanks and artillery. The German attaché's report of this incident is presumed to have inspired the Nazi parachute troops.

Painting by Arthur Beaumont

DRESSED FOR BUMPS, SKY SOLDIERS RIDE SMOOTH SILK

The paratrooper jumps from his C-47 transport plane (upper right) in a streamlined uniform of non-snagging twill and ankle-saving ten-inch boots. He carries as much as 120 pounds of weapons. His parachute is de luxe white silk. Cargo parachutes of red, blue, and yellow deliver weapons and tools in parabundles and paracrates. On landing, the paratrooper collapses his 'chute by spilling out the air that sustains it (right), then frees himself of the harness by unfastening it in three places (right center). On maneuvers, when this painting was made, paratrooper crews received crew-served weapons in bundles—known as delivery units—which 'chuted down from their planes. (In combat, each man jumps with his rifle.) The picture shows three men unrolling a bundle of equipment brought to earth by the collapsed red cargo 'chute (foreground).

The capture by Nazi parachutists of Fort Eben Emael and of the Rotterdam airport in May, 1940, established the parachute as a war weapon.

At that time the United States had not a single paratrooper. Then the U. S. Army welcomed back home its earlier idea, and activated the first parachute platoon in July, 1940, at Fort Benning, Georgia. In March, 1942, the Airborne Command was organized to train soldiers for reaching their objectives by parachute, glider, or plane. Airborne Americans first entered combat in North Africa in 1942.

NOTE: The November, 1942, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine* contains a series of reproductions of paintings showing various branches of the U. S. Army, including paratroops, on maneuvers.

Much meat was imported. Even in normal times the average Italian had only a quarter of the beef and veal to which Americans and Britons are accustomed, and less than half the French average. With a third the population of the United States, Italy had one-ninth the cattle, one-twelfth the hogs, one-fifth the sheep. Nearly two million goats supplemented the inadequate supply of cow's milk. Wartime shrinkage of imports placed heavier demands on domestic meat sources. A decree issued in 1942 provided for slaughtering horses and mules.

Fascist leaders urged farmers to cultivate all available land. Wheat products, especially macaroni and bread, are the chief items on the Italian menu. Wheat is Italy's chief grain crop, covering 12 million of her 70 million producing acres.

After grains, Italy's largest acreage is in grapes, with olives following closely. A million acres are in potatoes, half again that area in beans, with smaller plantings of other vegetables from which Italy contributed to Germany's wartime supply. Before the war Italy annually exported nearly 100 million dollars' worth of vegetables and fruits.

Bulletin No. 5, November 22, 1943.

Donald McLeish

A MOTHER-AND-DAUGHTER ACT WORKS THE GRAPEVINE CIRCUIT

On this hillside vineyard in Latium, near Rome, a smiling mother and daughter make a family affair of harvesting the grape crop. Before the war Italy's 2,400,000 acres of vineyards topped the acreage of any other country. This carries on an ancient Roman custom of empire-building days. Vineyards were started wherever the Roman legions carried Rome's civilization. Few remain in England, but Italy's sunny uplands, particularly suitable for ripening the fragrant fruit, grew 66,388,000 pounds in the year before the war broke out in Europe. The grape, believed to be the oldest cultivated fruit, probably originated in Asia and was brought by Phoenicians to the Greek islands. Greece gave it to Italy.

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